

*Our Benefice church family is welcoming and inclusive to all.
We aim to reach and serve our communities and work lovingly in friendship and partnership. Together, we 'travel with' our Lord faithfully and sacramentally.*

THE WEEK AHEAD

SATURDAY 15th November

09.00 Morning Prayer via Zoom

SUNDAY 16th (2nd before Advent; Safeguarding Sunday)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, Woodbridge

10.00 Parish Eucharist, Woodbridge

10.30 Morning Prayer, Great Bealings

TUESDAY 18th

10.00 – 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, SMH

17.00 Christian Meditation, SMH

19.30 Bellringers' AGM, Small Hall in SMH

WEDNESDAY 19th

14.45 'Zingy Singers' show 'Rooster Rag' by Michael Hurd (led by Liz Prior, & accompanied by Sarah Dodds) at St Mary's CE Primary. Come along!

THURSDAY 20th (Edmund, King of the East Angles, Martyr)

08.45 Woodbridge School Prep

Assembly, S Mary's, Woodbridge

10.00 Said Eucharist, Woodbridge

18.15 Choir rehearsal, SMH

SATURDAY 22nd November

09.00 Morning Prayer via Zoom

10.30-11.30 Advent Book Launch, over coffee, Seckford Room. All welcome.

SUNDAY 23rd (Christ the King)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, Woodbridge

10.00 Parish Eucharist, Woodbridge

TODAY'S Readings

Sunday 16th November

2nd before Advent

(Safeguarding Sunday)

Malachi 4. 1-2a

2 Thessalonians 3. 6-13

Luke 21. 5-19

Readings for NEXT WEEK

Sunday 23rd November

Christ the King

Next before Advent

Jeremiah 23. 1-6

Colossians 1. 11-20

Luke 23. 33-43

NOTICES

‘HERITAGE MORNING’ & ‘GIFT DAY’ - Following an initial idea from the Rector, what a magnificent morning last Saturday turned out to be! Great fun and lots of visitors! You can [read more about it here](#). Huge thanks to everyone who took whatever part in it, supported on the day or sent a donation, and especially to Veronica for masterminding the organisation of it all! The Gift Day raised **over £14,006 towards our Church Heating Fund**, with two ‘Bronze’ £1,000 donations and a ‘Gold’ £10,000 donation from households within our congregation. This makes the current total for the Heating Fund £124,000, and we need £200,000 to cross the line!

OUR CHRISTMAS MARKET is on **Saturday 29th November**, from **3pm to 5pm**. Please help us by, firstly, donating bottles, raffle prizes, and practically new / in very good condition toys and board games - there are boxes at the back of church for your donations for the stalls - and cakes to be brought on the day itself. Secondly, please share details of the Christmas Market on social media (we will be posting about it next week, so you can go to our page and share our posts), and if you have a street / local WhatsApp group, or you're on 'Nextdoor' or any other community group please shout about it...and of course, just chat to your friends and family and invite them along 😊 Janice Poulson will have her own ‘Angel Wings’ photo booth for children & adults this year. Thank you!



BUILDING & HEATING FUND DONATIONS - One of our Appeal Patrons, Suffolk artist Maggi Hambling CBE, is donating an original oil painting ‘Fireworks above the sea’ to either auction or raffle to help our building and heating funds. Here is an image of it (also now displayed on our Appeal boards) to whet our appetites and to help us think how we might raise the biggest sum from this most generous offer? *It is oil on board, 22 x 13cm (35 x 27cm framed).*

ST MARY’S SHOP - This year's devotional Advent book, 'O Come Emmanuel: Reflections on the Advent antiphons' (recommended by Fr Nigel)* will be available to purchase for £10 in our Shop from this Sunday (16th).

Our own St Mary's Christmas card is selling very well so please buy yours 'while stocks last', with all proceeds going to the Heating Fund.

CAN YOU HELP? Our lovely cleaning lady, Linda, has been working here for 27 years (!!), and will be retiring at the end of the year. Most people may never have seen her, as she comes in early in the morning, but we couldn't do without her! We ask that anyone who would like to donate towards a retirement gift for Linda, please see Michelle or Barbara. Thank you.

ITALIAN ADVENT LUNCH – On **Sunday 7th December** at **12.30pm** in **St Mary's House**, in aid of our Building Project Appeal (including Heating). **Tickets available from the Church Shop** are £25 per person (to include a free glass of Prosecco) for a 3-course meal from Chef Sophie-Rose. Menu will include a trio of crostini, chicken cacciatore, & a choice of orange polenta cake or affogato with a chocolate biscotti. Breads kindly donated by the new 'Acre Bakery' on Market Hill. Please don't miss this!

ACTIVE TRAVEL WOODBRIDGE – HAVE YOUR SAY! "Suffolk County Council have launched their latest consultation to hear your views about their proposals for creating quieter, safer streets. The latest proposals for Central Suffolk include making Quay Street one-way from Station Road to Cross Corner, reversing the traffic direction in both Cumberland Street and Thoroughfare as well as some ideas about managing traffic on Market Hill. You have **until 12th December** to have your say." (*Choose Woodbridge Newsletter, November 2025*). More information [here](#).

***LAUNCH OF ADVENT BOOK** – Our chosen book this year is called 'O Come Emmanuel: Reflections on the Advent antiphons,' and will be in our Shop and on sale from Sunday. Fr Nigel would like to introduce this year's reflections (24 in all) for each day of the four weeks of Advent... over coffee in **St Mary's House**, on **Saturday 22nd November** (St Cecilia's Day!) from **10.30am to 11.30am**. He hopes to combine the wonderful Advent music with an 'O' meditation of his own each Sunday!

NEW HEATING – Proposal and NEW accompanying drawings are now posted on the south wall of St Mary's - as presented to the DAC (Church planners). We await the outcome from all the latest work detailed after their meeting on 4th December. In the meantime, please wrap up warm, and a carpet 'cushion' is on offer every Sunday (courtesy of Archway Carpets).

TWO BY TWO – We really want to encourage some new volunteers for our Sunday coffee rota. The more people we have on board, the less often you have to do it! Please have a word with Michelle, who would love to hear from you.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Wednesday 26th November – Fabric Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
- Thursday 27th November – Woodbridge Christmas lights switch on (Market Hill)
- Saturday 29th November – Monthly Gardening Group in the churchyard (Woodbridge) at 10.30am
- Advent Sunday 30th November – Choral Evensong & Benediction at 5.30pm (Woodbridge)
- Woodbridge Choral Society concert – A selection from Handel's Messiah – Saturday 13th December at 7pm in St Mary's, Woodbridge

OUR THANKS to our Benefice Safeguarding Officer, Jeremy Hawksley, for his annual report (attached to this e-News) and thorough attention to detail. It affects every one of us in the life, mission, and witness of our Churches.

OUR NEXT PCC MEETING (Woodbridge) (after a very poor attendance last week) is **after church** (for half an hour only) on **Sunday 14th December**, to decide upon heating, tenders, and final DAC advice.

AMONG YOUR PRAYERS

(Intercessors, please [click here](#) for the Diocesan Prayer Diary)

For St Mary's CE Primary School at this Thursday's SIAMS (RE) Inspection; for Headteacher, Karen Read, & Appointed Governors, Veronica & Fr Nigel.

We pray for the sick, especially those known to us: Penny Bird, Liz Prior, and Betty Richardson; among our parishioners in care, for Sue Hubbard, John White, & Di Tricker.

For the recently departed. Among them we pray for the souls of Ronald Corneby, Heather Richards, and Gregory Warden. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

COLLECT FOR THIS WEEK

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we
long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
AMEN

Please contact the Benefice Office for all Baptism, Wedding and Funeral enquiries, and enquiries regarding bookings for the church or St Mary's House, on 01394 388820 or parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org

Usual Benefice Office Opening Hours are Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9am to 12.30pm, and Thursdays & Fridays 9am to 4pm.

**www.stmaryswoodbridge.org
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